

CHARTS
FLOW PLANS

PAINT NUMBERED
TREES

PERMANENT
SAMPLES

TIMBER
BOOKKEEPING

UNIT
RECORDS

THE DIAMETER
TAPE

TRIAL
BALANCE

PORT-A-
PUNCH

FOREST CONTROL

A
13.2
In 81
152

CONTINUOUS INVENTORY

"Today I have grown taller from walking
with the trees."

...Karle Wilson

Upper Darby, Pa. April, 1968 No. 152

AMERICAN CFI AN IN THING?

Occasionally I am asked if a rumor that American style CFI (continuous forest inventory) is fading-out is true. The rumor is not true. Actually CFI has been blending-in and is now a recognized and important part of the management of forest resources. CFI's forte is to measure details of change in forest conditions over short periods of time, something necessary to forest management.

From time to time one must expect to encounter normal reactions of new groups of foresters and land managers as they meet up with CFI. Some of these fellows must go through a series of stages of understanding not unlike those which many of us went through in helping to develop American CFI field and ADP techniques. A few of these foresters will bring in new ideas useful to CFI, but for most of them CFI will eventually settle down to a practical system using are-plots and accurate remeasurements of all trees above a lower diameter limit on each sample plot.

American CFI has done well its own work of measuring the many changes which occur in a forest more rapidly than most of us had realized. It has led foresters into the field of automatic (electronic) data processing which now is commonly used in many places in forest management. For quite a while CFI also led the way in tree grading, post cruising stratification and ADP calculation of statistical analyses.

Today a number of forest managers have their own equipment and their CFI processing programs. Others have neither one nor the other. Some Lake States forest managers are using an ADP CFI processing program being developed at the Ford Forestry Center (L'Anse, Michigan) by Michigan Technological University foresters and ADP men with Cal Stott's guiding hand. This program follows principles worked out by Cal, his co-workers and many company foresters with whom he has worked. Release #3 in a series of Research Papers about this ADP program is enclosed for you to read and to file in your CFI library for future reference.

W. W. BARTON, Forester

